

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
NEAR EAST THEATER OF OPERATIONS
CAIRO, EGYPT

Lt. Col. Richard J. Riddell,
Director of Collection & Liaison
Office of Strategic Services
Washington, D. C.

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Date 6/26/91

HRP 89-2

Dear Dick:

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We received General Donovan's letter to the Director of the Budget Bureau and are laying our plans accordingly. It is a great relief to have something definite at last and also to know that the gauge of battle regarding a future organization has been thrown to those who have the responsibility for final decision in the matter.

I attended a dinner a few nights ago given by Mr. Tuck for the Wickersham Committee. I started discussion on exactly this subject at my part of the table. I was glad to know that the Congressmen had been thinking about future intelligence and that their travels, particularly in the Balkans and Middle East, had quickened their senses to its importance. Mr. Dawson of FEA formed part of our discussion group and nobly aided and supported me in urging continuation of the type of intelligence activity that has been carried on by OSS. Mr. Horan, of Washington, seemed convinced that a comparable organization was necessary. Apparently as a result of our long and earnest dinner conversation, Mr. Wickersham made a point of talking to me afterwards. I suggested that he, upon his return to Washington, make a special point of conferring with General Magruder as the most outstanding and able proponent of a national intelligence agency and one who was completely objective. He asked me for a brief memo to remind him to do this upon his return to Washington. This I prepared and had delivered to him at the plane the next morning.

I feel that it will be most valuable for all concerned if not only Mr. Wickersham but also Mr. Horan could talk with General Magruder as they differ widely both between themselves and certainly with us in the setting up of such an organization. For example - Mr. Horan seemed convinced that it should be under the State Department; all of us jumped on this idea so vociferously that he was obviously shaken in his conviction. Mr. Wickersham,

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on the other hand, felt that it might most properly be an overseas extension of the FBI. I, personally, subscribed more readily to the latter idea than to the former and, horrific as such an idea might seem to many in OSS it has the advantage of being a civilian outfit, a going concern, and one which has an enviable reputation with the public.

At any rate, the above will give an idea of the varied thinking on the matter by those who will very possibly have considerable weight in the Congressional circles

Sincerely,

HARRY S. ALDRICH
Colonel, CAC
Strategic Services Officer
NETO.

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Letter from Colonel Harry S. Aldrich, Strategic Services Office to Lt. Col. Richard J. Riddell, Director of Collection & Liaison, OSS.				
2 pp.				
ABSTRACT				

This letter concerns a discussion between OSS officials, Mr. Wickersham, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Horan, and Col. Aldrich, concerning the formation of a central intelligence service. The concensus of opinion was that a central intelligence service must be formed, but Mr. Horan felt it should be under State Department direction while Mr. Wickersham felt it should be an overseas extension of FBI.

(Source document for HS-1, Chapter II, page 4.)

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